36. The face mask of claim 32, wherein the surface fuzz value is not less than 9.0 regardless of bicomponent fiber content.

37. The face mask of claim 32, wherein the surface fuzz value is not less than 9.1 regardless of bicomponent fiber content.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a reference to the harness. Support for this amendment may be found in FIG. 1 and in the corresponding detailed description.

The claims have been amended to eliminate any issue with respect to anticipation by Dyrud. As shown in the Examples, the largest surface fuzz value believed possible for a shaping layer that contains 100% bicomponent fibers is 8.0. In view of the above amendment, applicants believe that this case is in condition to be allowed.

Dated this 26th day of March, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl G. Hanson

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,900

3M Office of Intellectual Property Counsel

P.O. Box 33427

St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427

Telephone: (651) 736-7736 Facsimile: (651) 736-3833

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an

envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

Dated: March 26, 1999

Karl G. Hanson